Alberta Economy

Indicators at a Glance

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Industry

In 2013, Alberta's real GDP by industry grew by 3.9%, the third strongest growth rate among the provinces and the fourth consecutive year of robust growth. Real GDP growth was 3.7% in 2012. Nationally, real GDP rose 2.0% in 2013, a slight increase over 2012.

Population

As of January 1, 2014, Alberta's population was estimated at 4,082,571, a 3.4% increase from one year prior. Nationally, population grew 1.2% for the eighth straight quarter, reaching-35,344,962.

Migration

Alberta welcomed 8,749 net new international migrants and 5,663 net new residents from other provinces in the fourth quarter of 2013. Migration accounted for two thrids of population growth in the fourth quarter.

Employment[1]

Alberta lost 900 jobs in March, after gaining an exceptional 18,800 jobs in February. Over the past 12 months, Alberta has created 86,600 jobs.

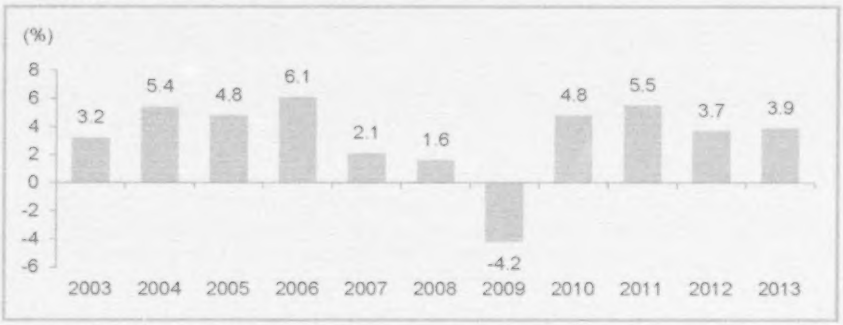
Unemployment[1]

Alberta's unemployment rate rose to 4.9% in March, but remains the second lowest rate among provinces with Saskatchewan the lowest.

New: Rigs Drilling

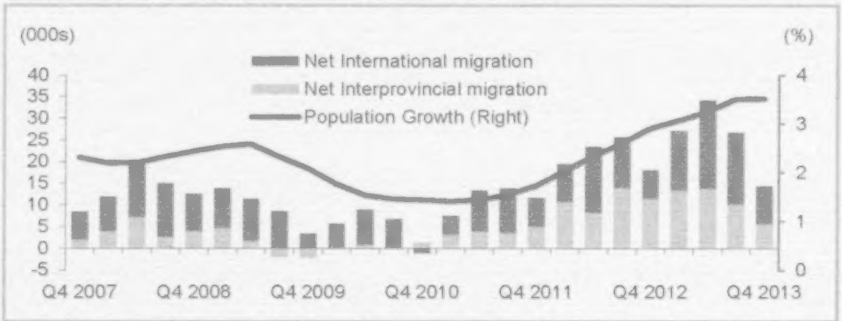
The average number of active rigs in Alberta for April was 143, up from 115 in April 2012, a 23.9% increase. Rigs are up 0.8% year-to-date.

Real GDP by Industry (Basic Prices)
(Annual, year-over-year % change)



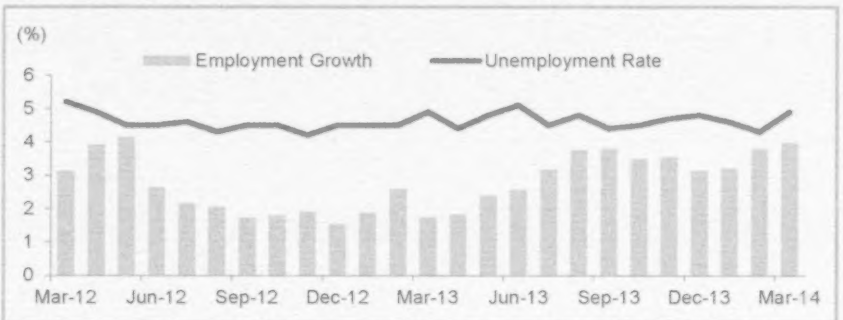
Source: Statistics Canada

Demographics
(Quarterly, population is year-over-year % change)



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
(Monthly, employment is year-over-year % change)



Source: Statistics Canada

Inflation

The consumer price index rose 3.9% y/y in March due to a surge in energy prices (+20.7% y/y). CPI excluding food and energy was a more modest 2.3%.

New: Average Weekly Earnings[1]

In Alberta, average weekly earnings (AWE) increased to $1,128.31 in February, up 3.1% y/y. Nationally, wages rose 2.3% to $924.83.

Retail Sales[1]

Retail trade hit $6.5 billion in February, up 8.3% y/y and nearly 1% from January. The largest major contributer to February's gains was motor vehicle and parts dealers.

Housing Starts

Alberta housing starts hit 39,900 (seasonally adjusted at annual rate) in March up 17.9% compared with March 2013.

New Housing Price Index

Alberta NHPI rose 3.3% y/y in February, with Calgary jumping 6.9%. Edmonton noted a 0.1% decrease. House only prices in the province rose 4.1% while land prices increased 1.8%.

Building Permits[1]

The total value of building permits sunk 14.8% y/y in February. This partially reverses the strong gains seen in January leaving the value of permits up 10.6% so far in 2014.

[1] Seasonally adjusted

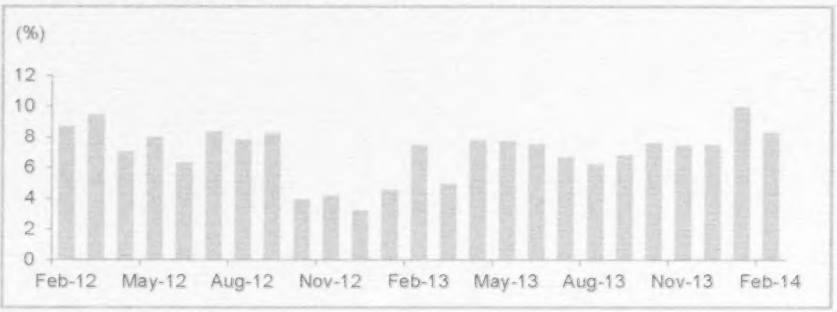
Contact

Warren Kirkland 780.427.8845

Inflation and Earnings
(Monthly, CPI and AWE are year-over-year % change)

Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
(Monthly, year-over-year % change)



Source: Statistics Canada

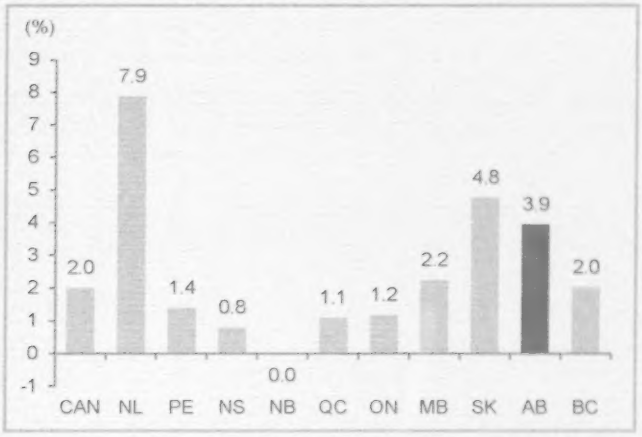
Housing Market
(Monthly)

Source: Statistics Canada

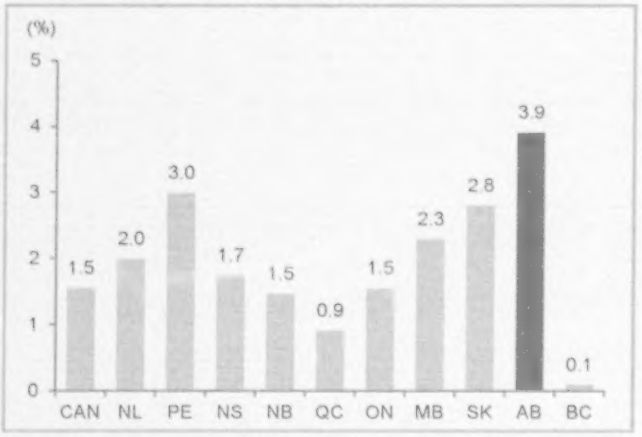
	Canadian Dollar (US¢/$CAN)	WTI Oil ($US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas($US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ)
Latest	91.20	99.42	4.80 (May)	5.20 (Feb)
Fiscal year-to-date	90.99	101.81	4.69	3.13

Please see the *Weeekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

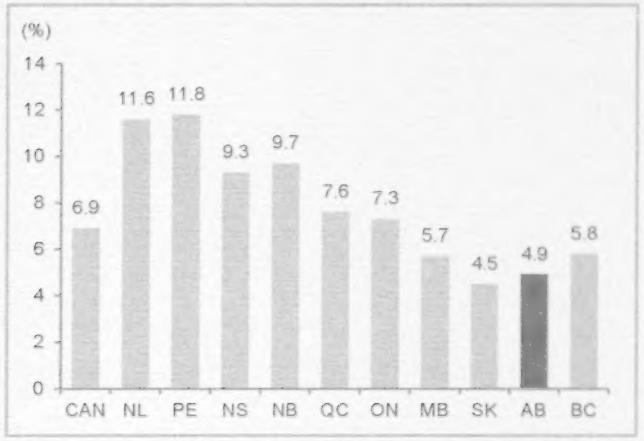
Real GDP by Industry (Basic Prices)
(2013, year-over-year growth)



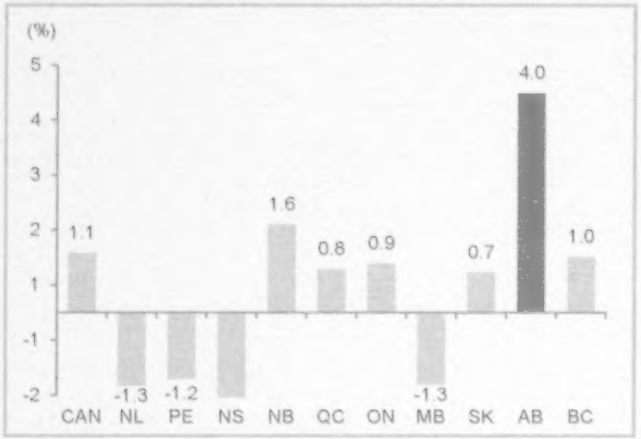
CPI Inflation
(March 2014, year-over-year growth)



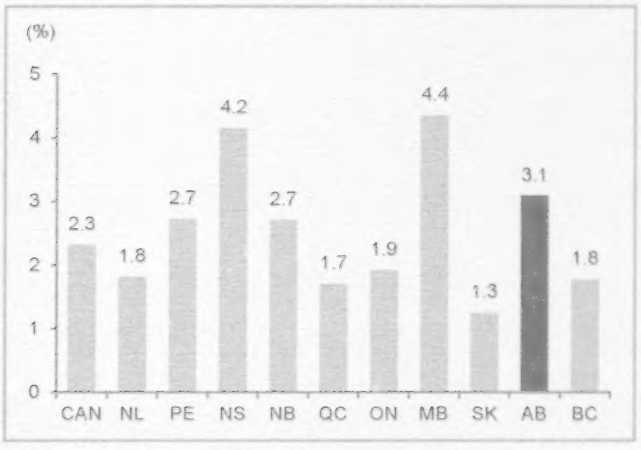
Unemployment Rate
(March 2014)



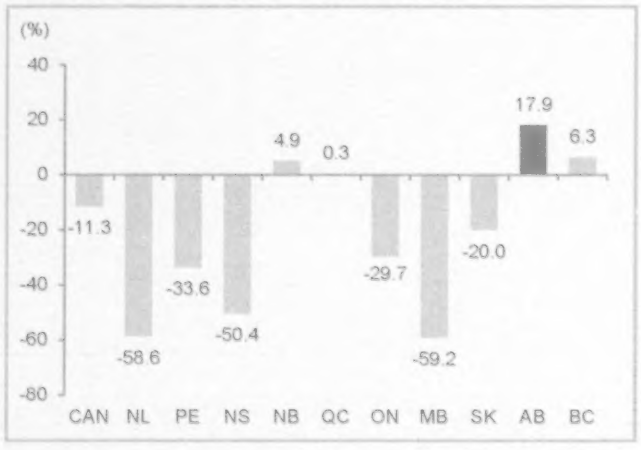
Employment
(March 2014, year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(February 2014, year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(March 2014, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



Alberta Economic Indicators

Population[1]	2012	2013	2014YTD	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14
Population (thousands)	3,889	4,025	4,083			4,083			
y/y % change	2.6	3.5	3.4			3.4			
Net Interprovincial Migration	27,652	52,677	15,932			5,663			
Net International Migration	40,842	52,551	25,185			8,749			
Labour Market									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,150	2,211	2,256	2,246	2,237	2,243	2,262	2,261	
m/m change (thousands)				11.2	-9.7	6.6	18.8	-0.9	
y/y % change	2.7	2.9	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.8	4.0	
Unemployment Rate (%, SA)	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.9	
Participation Rate (%, SA)	73.4	73.1	73.1	73.3	72.9	72.8	73.1	73.3	
Average Weekly Earnings ($, SA)	1,070.31	1,107.75	1,128.07	1,130.00	1,140.52	1,127.82	1,128.31		
y/y % change	3.5	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.7	4.5	3.1		
Household Sector									
Retail Sales ($ million, SA)	68,408	73,109	12,875	6,272	6,197	6,407	6,467		
y/y % change	7.0	6.9	9.1	7.5	7.5	9.9	8.3		
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	248	263	33	20	19	17	17		
y/y % change	10.5	6.2	3.7	5.3	7.9	1.8	5.5		
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.1	1.4	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.7	2.4	3.9	
Excluding Food & Energy	1.3	1.4	2.2	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.3	
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	33.4	36.0	38.3	43.9	36.2	39.3	35.7	39.9	
y/y % change	29.9	7.8	16.8	9.6	18.6	29.5	4.5	17.9	
New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	1.3	2.8	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.3		
Resale Home Sales	60,369	66,080	16,757	5,704	5,171	5,370	5,489	5,898	
y/y % change	12.3	9.5	7.8	16.4	4.8	5.3	6.0	12.0	
Sales to New Listing Ratio	0.59	0.64	0.66	0.67	0.64	0.66	0.66	0.66	
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ thousands)	362	390	400	389	390	400	401	399	
y/y % change	2.6	5.0	6.7	5.3	4.7	7.9	6.5	5.6	
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	5,759	4,689	638	323	284	336	302		
y/y % change	-18.1	-18.6	-25.6	-25.6	-17.9	-24.7	-26.7		
Business Sector									
Goods Exports (customs based,$ million)	95,873	103,731	18,650	8,738	9,097	9,036	8,724		
y/y % change	2.8	8.2	9.9	14.0	19.0	12.4	7.1		
Energy Products ($ million)	68,677	76,339	14,074	6,454	6,866	7,591	6,483		
y/y% change	3.6	11.2	12.2	18.2	27.9	15.4	8.7		
Agricultural Products ($ million)	6,795	6,231	1,026	582	531	531	494		
y/y % change	20.6	8.3	-9.2	-3.6	-18.1	-6.3	-12.0		
Rigs Drilling	250	235	311	233	259	392	403	307	143
y/y% change	-12.6	-5.9	2.9	9.8	-9.9	6.7	4.4	0.4	23.9
Manufacturing Shipments ($ million)	73,497	74,898	13,078	6,464	6,273	6,538	6,540		
y/y% change	3.4	1.9	6.6	7.4	5.7	7.4	5.9		
Wholesale Trade ($ million)	76,841	78,605	13,564	6,695	6,551	6,743	6,820		
y/y% change	10.8	2.3	4.1	2.6	1.1	4.7	3.6		
Building Permits ($ million, SA)	14,663	17,262	2,775	1,402	1,359	1,611	1,165		
y/y% change	14.8	17.7	10.6	-6.9	10.7	40.9	-14.8		
Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	8,287	9,859	1,811	877	825	1,061	750		
y/y % change	18.2	19.0	27.8	15.6	23.3	50.8	5.2		
Non-Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	6,376	7,403	964	525	534	549	414		
y/y % change	10.7	16.1	-11.8	-29.7	-4.4	24.9	-36.6		
Non-Res. Building Cons. Prios Index[2] (y/y % change)	3.8	1.2			1.3				
Business Bankruptcies	230	137	18	8	14	7	11		
y/y % change	-12.9	-40.4	-25.0	-25.0	-12.5	-30.0	-21.4		

1 Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30)

2 Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate

Sources: All data are from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canada Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (office of the superintendent of Bankruptcy

All historical data are subject to revision